



The Emerald News

Office of
Councilmember
Marti Emerald



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July 2014

District 9

Communities

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- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Village
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- Islenair
- Kensington
- Mountain View
- Mt Hope
- Ridgeview
- Rolando
- Saranac-Mohawk
- Southcrest
- Swan Canyon
- Talmadge
- Teralta-East & West
- Willie Henderson

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Dear Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on some of the key items being discussed at City Hall including our recently signed City Budget, a summary of what an update to the Mid-City Public Facilities Finance Plan means to many of our communities, a brief update on the effort to raise San Diego's minimum wage and increase access to earned sick days.

Raising San Diego's Minimum Wage:

I am proud that my colleagues and I recently voted to get the ball rolling on helping these San Diegan's by beginning the process of applying these rules to city employees. These are the initial steps needed to increase minimum wage in San Diego. Under this proposal, our city's minimum wage would go up to \$9.75 in July 2015, \$10.50 in July 2016 and \$11.50 in July 2017, with increases based on inflation to begin after January 2019. In addition to increasing minimum wage, I think that it is important that employees have the opportunity to earn 5 days of sick leave and am proud that that many of my colleagues support my efforts to get this through. This is good for working families and the overall safety of our public.



Pictured Above: Councilmember Emerald at a recent press conference for raising minimum wage and increasing access to earned sick leave

City Budget:

My City Council colleagues and I recently approved the City's nearly \$3 billion Fiscal Year 2015 budget, which the Mayor signed later the same afternoon. Among other things, the budget paves the way for the hiring of more police personnel firefighters and lifeguards, as well funding police retention, and additional police and fire equipment. The budget also provides more money for infrastructure projects, including parks, streetlights, and a temporary fire station in the Skyline neighborhood. It extends library hours, and includes money for a program manager to oversee the city's various sustainability programs. With the support of the community, there has been an addition of a new zoning investigator that residents have been seeking. The new position will help to address problems with rental housing that impacts quality of life issues in the College Area and elsewhere.

Update to Mid-City Public Facilities Financing Plan:

San Diego City Council recently approved an update to the Mid-City Public Facilities Financing Plan. The highlight is an increase in per unit of the developer impact fee which has not been updated since 1998. The increase will be from \$2,545.00 to \$11,925.00 and developers in the future will now have to pay the increased fee per unit built. Of the \$11,925.00 fee, \$10,760.00 will be allocated to the construction of parks in these old park deficient neighborhoods. Mid-City currently has 213.49 usable park acres which is 271.22 acres short of the meeting the 2030 City standard for usable park acreage. The Plan also includes funding to update transportation needs, libraries, rec. centers, fire stations, and police facilities.

- Marti

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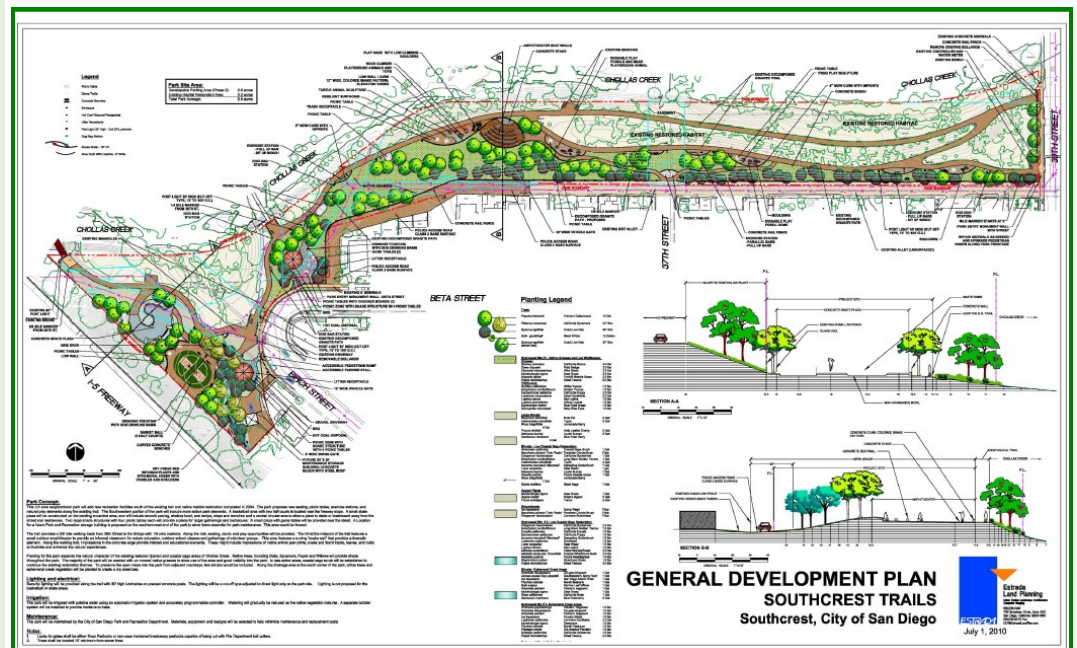
Exciting News for City Heights

More good news for City Heights! The California Department of Finance has granted final approval to use former redevelopment funds to restore the Silverado Ballroom to its former glory. A groundbreaking celebration is planned soon and we will keep you posted. We are still waiting for the states expected final sign off for dollars to repair sidewalks and install street lights in Colina Park and along El Cajon Boulevard.



Update on Southcrest Trails

We are also excited to share good news for Southcrest Trails Park and adjacent green alley projects. Civic San Diego is receiving a \$600,000 Urban Greening grant. Our planners at Civic say this grant will be enough to finish these long stalled projects and perhaps enough cash to install lights along the trail.



Safe Neighborhoods

A neighbor from the Corridor neighborhood in City Heights contacted my staff and requested curb ramps for an intersection he regularly used, and my office was happy to assist!

With the support of community members, the diligent work of the Office of ADA Compliance and Accessibility and other city staff, we were able to get these ramps installed in a timely manner and hopefully have created a safer crossing for the neighborhood.



BEFORE



AFTER

Construction in the College Area

Phase one of construction begins in July on SDSU's South Campus Plaza. It's a really big deal—no tax or tuition money is being used and it makes the campus much more pedestrian, bike, & community accessible and friendly. It has substantial community based retail space and houses another 600 students on campus making another stride towards having at least 10,000 students live on campus as opposed to being housed in nearby neighborhoods. This thing is a game changer and Councilmember Emerald was key in bringing together SDSU and City Staff (Bob Schultz & Gary Pence et al) to maximize the pedestrian accessibility of the design and traffic patterns/controls to support that design.

Councilmember Emerald and staff literally walked the site during the design phase to implement pedestrian friendly traffic controls and extend the cobblestone stamp-crete portion of the ingress & egress which will give the entire complex a more "European " feel to it. Specifically; during that walking tour and discussion the City helped design pedestrian access measures (incorporating the transit & trolley plaza) and agreed to allow extending cobblestone into city property (streets & medians) in exchange for a commitment by SDSU to pay for ongoing maintenance which made the design change in favor of pedestrian/bike/community access happen.



Marti and the Community



Councilmember Emerald celebrated retired SD Police Officer Frank Schmidt's 100th birthday and declared June 30th, "Frank Schmidt Day" in the City of San Diego.



Councilmember Emerald joined members of the community in welcoming the new MTS Rapid Route 235 to Mid-City!



Councilmember Emerald recently attended the College Area Community Council meeting and presented the outgoing Executive Director of the College BID with a proclamation declaring June 11, 2014 "Jennifer Finnegan Day" in Council District 9.



Councilmember Emerald joined Mid-City residents in celebrating the City Heights Farmers Market's 6th year anniversary!

INTERNSHIPS

San Diego City Councilmember Emerald's office is currently accepting applications from motivated high school and college students looking to gain experience interning for an elected official.

Interested applicants should e-mail Julio Rivera a cover letter, résumé and at least one letter of recommendation to jcrivera@sandiego.gov. Please feel free to call (619) 236-6725 with any questions.